Nile Basin Development Challenge (NBDC) Strategies project (N2)

Jeldu Woreda

Sixth Innovation Platform Meeting

May 13, 2013

Jeldu



Participants of the 6th Jeldu Innovation Platform Meeting

Minutes of the 6th Jeldu Innovation Platform Meeting

Date: 13 May 2013

Time: 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Meeting venue: Jeldu Woreda Administration Office

Meeting facilitated by: Ato Tibebu Seifu (Head Livestock Agency)

and Ato Temesgen Assefa (HUNDEE)

Minutes recorded by: Ato Zewdie Wondatir (Holeta Research Center)

Participants: List annexed

Main agenda items:

1. Review of the 2012 season action research
2. Review of the 2013 IP action research plan

**Introduction**

Ato Tibebu welcomed the participants and facilitated a round of self-introductions of the participants. He then introduced the meeting agenda to the participants and requested Ato Girma, the Jeldu Woreda (district) administrator to make an opening speech of the meeting.

Ato Girma in his opening speech thanked the participants for coming to the meeting and made a brief recap of the IP’s evolution and the activities being undertaken by the IP members. He made commendable remarks about the effort of the members which is now attracting a number of farmers apart from the project farmers. He hoped that it continues even stronger and reconfirmed that the support of the woreda is always at the disposal of the platform. He then wished success and productive deliberations for the meeting of the day.

1. **Review of the 2012 Action Research**

A power point presentation of the 2012 action research review made jointly by the technical group of the Innovation Platform and the project farmers was made by Ato Temesgen Assefa, the IP’s local facilitator.

The review covered documentation of the processes followed during the planning and implementation of the action research and the major activities and achievements made on 2012 fiscal year. Following the presentation, detailed discussion was made by the participants regarding the process, achievements and challenges of the action research. Though the initially listed project farmers were 32 in number, it was reported that a total of 96 (89 male and 7 female) households were identified to participate on fodder development action research. This increase in number of participating farmers was due to the increased interest of farmers and availability of planting materials to be issued to more number of farmers. About 197, 687 fodder grass splits and fodder tree seedlings were purchased and distributed to the selected households. Fodder varieties distributed include: Napier grass, Dasho grass, Bana grass and Tree Lucerne. Among these fodder varieties distributed to the target groups, Bana grass showed low success rate because its establishment was weak. Similarly, due to damage caused during transporting cuttings, low performance was observed for Napier grass. Training on the establishment of these fodder crops were conducted for target groups for a day at the time of planting.

**Some success stories of the fodder intervention include:**

* After the intervention, the communities in the watershed have shown better motivation and attitudinal change on soil and water conservation.
* About 30% of the target groups benefited from the established fodder plants at their backyards in terms of feed for calves.
* 70% of the planted fodder were on soil bund but the fodder is not yet big enough to feed to animals
* Increased demand for fodder trees raised in the area

**Some of the challenges in the process:**

* Uncontrolled free grazing from non-benefited group (neighboring farmers)
* Untimely release of finance from ILRI side
* As a result of late financial release, seedling plantations were also late
* Resistance from some farmers during implementation

**The Way forward**

* Set and implement community bylaws to overcome uncontrolled grazing
* Fencing nursery sites at back yards
* Establish and train local management committee at Kebele levels
* To facilitate experience sharing among other non-benefited farmers and demonstrate them the use of fodder plants for soil and water conservation and as well as for animal feed
* IP group should also think of market issues in case of surplus production of the fodder plants in the area in the future

**Reflections on the 2012 action research review report**

* Uncontrolled (free) grazing is still an issue and a proper plan to manage this threat has to be included in the 2013 plan. More awareness creation with the wider community about the fodder intervention and buying in their views and also sharing the fodder materials with them in case they need, will help reducing the threat of free (uncontrolled) grazing
* At the moment there is no need to establish nursery sites as there are many farmers who have nurseries of especially Dasho grass in the their gardens and they are looking for market. The project can purchase the splits of Dasho grass from these farmers and distribute to new farmers. This method of sourcing planting materials motivates farmers to grow the fodder
* Planting materials have to be issued in time this year
* Some farmers who initially resisted the fodder because they thought that it is just weed are now being convinced that it can be good for their animals and soil and also it can generate income
* Expert consultation is needed during the selection of the fodder varieties and the planting strategy suitable for the area. The local research center (HRC) and the forage experts of the woreda livestock office have to play the leading role here
* There might be a need to conduct a formal participatory fodder evaluation with target farmers who planted the fodder and started using it for various purposes

**2. Year 2013 Action Research Plan**

List of activities to be implemented, potential threats expected to be encountered and the expected outputs to be delivered in the year were presented and thorough discussions were made by the meeting participants. Some more activities are included for the current year as compared with the activities which were planned for the year 2012. Budget breakdown for the proposed activities was also indicated as of May, 2013 to the end of the project life i.e. December 2013. The total budget to be utilized to implement the activities is about $7,000. It was also indicated in the fiscal year plan that about 65 additional farmers will be identified and discussion will be made with them soon. Besides the established fodder crops, it is planned to incorporate additional grass varieties such as vetiver grass. It was also mentioned to revise and learn from the strengths and weaknesses observed in the year 2012.

**Reflections on the 2013 Action Research Plan report**

* Need assessment to be done at the community level and it should come from the communities themselves what they need as intervention.
* Well organized training on fodder development practice for the target communities should be conducted
* Target community based participatory fodder evaluation (utilization and use) need to be emphasized.
* Strong action plan should be included to get rid of free grazing/uncontrolled grazing so as to bring sense of ownership
* Better to incorporate the views/opinions of the target farmers with regard to the performance of improved fodders particularly Napier and Bana grasses.
* Who selected Vetiver grass for 2013 fodder intervention? Were farmers and experts consulted? If not, it has to be revised and the selection process should involve farmers and experts. It was repeatedly reported that the grass is mostly used for soil conservation purpose but it does have only little or no importance for animal feed as it causes injury around the mouth part of the animal during feeding. It is also better to tell the merits and demerits of using this grass for the target farmer group. The Feed Assessment and Farmers Need Assessment exercises need to be conducted soon to ensure community participation and improve the process of fodder intervention.
* “Is it possible to include farmers outside the NBDC watershed villages?” one DA asked. It has been agreed that we focus on the already identified villages so as to ensure proper management and later on as time goes it is inevitable that more farmers will take part in the scaling out program
* Training is planned only for farmers. Why not include the woreda technical staff in the training? It has been explained that a number of capacity building trainings and experience sharing events were made to the technical group of the IP in Addis Ababa. This included action research processes, platform facilitation, NRM strategies (WAT-A-GAME), and the application of various tools like SLATE and FEAST to collect baseline information in the process of conducting an action research. However, depending on the need, there can be additional trainings for local experts and DAs regarding the management forages and other livestock feed.
* Why additional training was planned for old farmers? The training provided in 2012 focused only on the establishment and field management of the forages. Additional training is required in the area of feed conservation and feeding systems to both new and old farmers
* The budget in 2012 was only USD 5000 and there were 96 farmers covered in the project. But this year the budget is USD 7000 and only 65 more farmers are planned. Why is this? The project farmers of 2012 were only 32 and more farmers planted the fodder, but trainings, M & E, etc. activities were done only with the 32 farmers. In addition, there are additional activities this year both for new and old farmers.
* Some farmers among the newly selected villages for the fodder intervention, do not have physical SWC structures? Is the plan to plant the fodder only at the back yards? There are some famers without SWC structures, but they have other planting strategies like backyard planting. Therefore, if they satisfy other criteria of selection, they can still be given chance to participate

The participants approved the 2013 action research plan with few suggestions for refinement especially in the area of fodder variety selection.

**Annex 1: Jeldu IP’s Action Plan for year 2013 Action Research (May – Dec 2013)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. | **Activity** | **Lead Organizations** | **Supporting Organizations** | **Time Frame** | **Budget** |  |
| 1 | 1st IP meeting | HUNDEE / Jeldu Woreda Livestock Agency | ILRI, HRC, Ambo University | May13,2013 | 7000 |  |
| 2 | Selection of new beneficiaries and local committee | IP technical group and livestock agency, DAs | HUNDEE, Woreda OoA | May 15- 20, 2013 | 1500 |  |
| 3 | Focused Group Discussion with new beneficiaries | IP technical Group, Livestock Agency , DAs | HUNDEE, Woreda OoA | May 25-27,2013 | 1000 |  |
| 4 | Local committee training | Holeta research Center, Ambo University and woreda livestock Agency | HUNDEE, Woreda OoA, GIZ | May29-30 | 5800 |  |
| 5 | Training for previous beneficiaries | Holeta research Center, Ambo University and woreda livestock Agency, DAs | HUNDEE, Woreda OoA | May 31- | 8000 |  |
| 6 | Acquisition of seedling | HUNDEE, Livestock Agency , | ILRI, , Holeta Research center | May 27-29 | 71800 |  |
| 7 | Training for new beneficiaries | Holeta research Center, Ambo University and woreda livestock Agency, DAs | HUNDEE, Woreda OoA | June 1-5, 2013 | 8000 |  |
| 8 | Distribution and planting of seedlings | Livestock Agency, IP Technical Group, DAs | HUNDEE, Woreda OoA | June 6-30, 2013 | 16000 |  |
| 9 | Planting | Farmers, Livestock Agency, DAs | Woreda OoA, GIZ | June 15 – July 5 |  |  |
| 10 | 2nd IP meeting | ILRI, Livestock Agency | HUNDEE, IP Members and DAs | July 5, 2013 | 7000 |  |
| 11 | Monitoring and Follow-up | Livestock Agency and DAs, Farmers | HUNDEE, ILRI, Holeta Research Center and Ambo University | May – Dec, 2013 | 4000 |  |
| 12 | Field Day | Farmers, HUNDEE, Livestock agency, DAs | HRC, ILRI, Ambo University, Woreda Administration, Woreda OoA | October15, 2013 | 9000 |  |
| 13 | 3rd IP Meeting | HUNDEE, Livestock agency | ILRI, HRC, Ambo University, Woreda OoA | October,16 | 7000 |  |
| Total |  |  |  |  | 146100 |

**Annex 2: List of participants of the 6th Jeldu IP Meeting**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No.** | **Name** | **Organization** | **Position** |
| 1 | Tulu Merga | Jeldu Woreda Agri. office | Team Leader |
| 2 | Daba Gareda | Jeldu Woreda Agri. office | Head Officer |
| 3 | Tarphossa Deressa | Jeldu Woreda Agri. office | Head Officer |
| 4 | Chala Megersa | Jeldu Woreda Agri. office | SLMP-GIZ focal person |
| 5 | Teshome Terefa | HUNDEE | Project coordinator |
| 6 | Bekele Abebe | Jeldu Woreda Agri. office | Extn. Expert |
| 7 | Jonse Negewo | Jeldu Woreda Agri. office | Expert |
| 8 | Legese Geremew | Road office | Head officer |
| 9 | Asegedech Zewdu | Women affairs office | Head officer |
| 10 | Bizunesh Workineh | Jeldu Woreda Agri. office | Head officer |
| 11 | Debre Tolessa | O.P.D.O. Office | Head officer |
| 12 | Bekele Eba | WOFED(Woreda Office of Finance and Economic Development) | Head officer |
| 13 | Kesa Negara | Jeldu Woreda Agri. office | DA |
| 14 | Abera Ajema | Kolu Gelan Kebele | Farmer |
| 15 | Mulesa Ajema | Kolu Gelan Kebele | Farmer |
| 16 | Hailu Wondimu | Kolu Gelan Kebele | Farmer |
| 17 | Abera Birhanu | Kolu Gelan Kebele | Farmer |
| 18 | Bekele Fufa | Kolu Gelan Kebele | Farmer |
| 19 | Hirpha Seboka | Jeldu Woreda Agri. office | DA |
| 20 | Mekonin Mirkana | Kolu Gelan Kebele | Farmer |
| 21 | Daniyee Lichee | Land and environment Protection | Head officer |
| 22 | Birhanu Dandesa | Land and environment Protection | Expert |
| 23 | Girma Letta | Administration office | Head Administrator |
| 24 | Abdisa Negeso | O.P.D.O. Office | Head building |
| 25 | Aberra Adie | ILRI | Researcher |
| 26 | Zewdie Wondatir | Holetta Research Center | Researcher |
| 27 | Tibebu Seifu | Jeldu woreda Livestock Agency | Expert |
| 28 | Temesgen Assefa | HUNDEE | IP facilitator |